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COUNTRY Bulgaria

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SUBJECT The Kliment Okhridski State University of Sofia

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Admission Procedure.

1. After 9 September 1944, the system of admission to the Kliment Okhridski State University of Sofia was completely changed. Those who wished to study at the University had to obtain special permission from the Fatherland Front Committee in the place of their residence. The purpose of this measure was to close the doors of higher education to those suspected of being reactionary and retrograde elements, i.e., not orthodox Communists.

Reorganization of the Admission Procedure.

2. About 1948, the admission procedure was reorganized, without changing the basis of the system, however. Everyone who wished to study at the University was obliged to fill out questionnaires containing the following:

   a. Names of parents.

   b. Parents' membership in political parties before 9 September 1944.

   c. Father's profession before and after 9 September 1944.

   d. Mother's profession before and after 9 September 1944.

   e. Parents' participation in resistance movements.

   f. Parents' membership in opposition parties after 9 September 1944.

   g. Social origin: bourgeois, intellectual, worker?

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h. Applicant's membership in political parties or mass organizations.

i. Applicant's part in resistance against the fascist regime.

j. Membership in fascist parties before 9 September 1944.

k. Membership in opposition parties after 9 September 1944.

l. Participation in the brigade movement, time, and place.

m. Criminal record.

After filling out these questionnaires, another personal data questionnaire had to be filled out and stamped by the District Council, or the Regional Council, etc. depending on one's place of residence. The councils corresponded to the municipalities.

Entrance Examinations.

3. The student then had to submit all of the documents to the University's administration office, where he was given permission to take entrance examinations, which consisted of the following:

a. Written examination on Bulgarian literature.

b. Written examination on the subject in which the student wished to major.

c. In 1953 an oral examination was introduced to test the student's political orientation. Questions were asked about state policies and other questions in connection with the situation in Bulgaria at the time. Some of these were as follows:

(1) What was the nature of the armed rebellion of 9 September 1944?

(2) Could victory have been won without the aid of the Soviet Army?

(3) Was the insurrection of 9 September 1944 a Socialist revolution or not?

(4) What is the aim of a Socialist society?

After a student had passed all these tests, he was allowed to register at the University.

Academic Instruction. 50X1

4. [redacted] the organization of higher instruction, [redacted] the organization of instruction in the Department of Philology, specifically French philology, [redacted] Instruction in French literature, grammar, phonetics, morphology, syntax, etc. was given in French. Instruction in political subjects was given in Bulgarian. All students of modern philologies such as French, English, German, and Italian, were obliged to study Russian philology as their minor. 50X1 50X1 50X1

5. Instruction in the Department of French Philology consisted not only of our major subjects, such as French literature from the XII century to the present time, French grammar, history of the French language, old French, Latin, linguistics, language exercises, phonetics, morphology, syntax, comparative grammar, detailed contemporary grammar, but also of political subjects such as history

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of the Bolshevik Party, the basis of Marxism-Leninism, dialectic materialism and historic materialism. Examinations in all these subjects were compulsory for all the students and were considered very important, at times even more important than the examinations in our major subjects.

6. The best instructors in French were Prof. Toma TOMOV and his associate, Liubomir VANKOV. Associate professor Pavlina PAVLOVA, who taught contemporary French literature (XVIII to XX century), did not know her subject well. Her knowledge of French was inadequate. She made serious grammatical mistakes. All one had to do to pass an examination in her class was to talk continuously.

Military Instruction.

7. In 1952 compulsory theoretical and practical military instruction for all but correspondence students of the University, including women, was established. Almost all of the instructors in Military Science were Army officers and, as far as I know, all military instruction followed the general rules of military instruction in the barracks.

8. Military instruction at the University was designated "cathedra No. 20 or 23"; I do not recall exactly. It included topography, basic instruction in infantry, artillery, and other military sciences. Examinations in all military subjects were compulsory for all students but grades were not kept in official University records.

9. Practical instruction in military subjects was given concurrently with the theoretical instruction, near Kniczhevo outside of Sofia. Since correspondence students did not have to take military courses, I never participated in any of these exercises. I heard of them from a young woman who was a regular student at the University.

Graduation.

10. In order to graduate, a regular student had to study four years and a correspondence student, five years. After a student had passed all the regular courses given at the University, he also had to pass a state examination before he could obtain his bachelor's degree and diploma. The state examination, which was given in February, July, and October of each year, was divided as follows:

a. Examination in the student's major.

b. Examination in methodology.

c. Political examination on the bases of Marxism-Leninism.

11. After passing these examinations, the student received his diploma. This, however, did not mean that the student was free to choose his future place of employment. Every graduate was at the disposal of the Ministry which controlled his field of study; for instance, students of French Philology were at the disposition of the Ministry of Public Education. The Ministry assigned a graduate to a town or village to teach in a secondary school. If the graduate did not report for duty at the beginning of the school year, the Ministry was empowered to impose a fine, which amounted, as I recall, to 10,000 leva.

Student Organizations.

12. University students not only had to keep up with their studies

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but also had to participate in all activities of the Dimitrov Union of Bulgarian Youth, and attend meetings of other organizations and political parties. It was compulsory for students to take part in the demonstrations on 1 May and 9 September, which were national holidays. Only those who had a good political file were considered perfect students.

13. At the beginning of the semester, students had to join a branch of the Dimitrov Union of Bulgarian Youth (Dimitrovski Saiuz na Narodnata Mladezh), into which a number of organizations were consolidated in December 1947. Prior to that date the following youth organizations had existed:

a. Union of Working Youth (Rabotnicheski Mladezhki Saiuz), the youth section of the Bulgarian Communist Party.

b. Agricultural Youth Union (Zemedelski Mladezhki Saiuz), the youth section of the Bulgarian Agricultural Party.

c. "Zveno Youth Union (Mladezhki Saiuz "Zveno"), the youth section of the "Zveno political party.

d. Youth Section of the Social Democratic Party.

e. Popular Students' Union (Obsht Studentski Naroden Saiuz), an independent organization.

f. General Union of Students (Edinen Mladezhki Obshto Uchenicheski Saiuz), an organization of the students of secondary schools (gymnasium).

14. The purpose of the consolidation of all youth organizations was to place all young people into one organization to insure better control and to mold them into a uniform pattern, as well as to indoctrinate them with Communist viewpoints, since the Dmitrov Union of Bulgarian Youth was directed by the Bulgarian Communist Party. The aim of this organization was to impose the general line of the Bulgarian Communist Party upon all Bulgarian young people, who, for the most part, did not belong to the Bulgarian Communist Party and did not accept its teachings. On the contrary, Bulgarian youth was strongly opposed to Communist dictatorship.

15. Another aim of the Dimitrov Union of Bulgarian Youth was to check on the private lives of its members, particularly their political opinions. When a member was found to have unorthodox political opinions, he was excluded from the Union, a move which made it very doubtful that he would ever be able to finish his studies at the University or to keep his job. Even if such a student somehow managed to complete his studies at the University, it would be very difficult for him to find a job.

16. The Dimitrov Union of Bulgarian Youth at the University was divided into groups of 15 to 20. Each group was headed by a deputy, whose task it was to watch the students in his group. This deputy had a special notebook, with a page allotted to each student in his group, and in which he made notes. His principal task was to spy on the students, not only at the University but also outside of school.

Miscellaneous

17. I do not know the number of students attending Sofia University. My guess is that the school may have had more than 5,000 students.

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The tuition fee was 160 leva per year for all students. Students had to pay 8 to 10 leva for a student book and a student's identification card. A fee of four leva for each examination was charged, and a fee of 100 leva for the diploma.

18. There were other institutions of higher learning in Bulgaria at:

a. Plovdiv: faculties of medicine, agronomy, and law.

b. Svishtov /4337N-2519E/: commercial academy.

c. Varna (now called Stalin): polytechnic college until 1949 or 1950.

d. Ruse: polytechnic college which was closed in 1949 or 1950.

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